

OVERVIEW

2009 WILD TURKEY HUNT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The 2009 season is the second year of the phase-in approach toward over-the-counter sales of wild turkey permits. The phase-in approach and the parameters that will guide the process were approved to begin during the 2008 season. The intent to eventually sell turkey permits over-the-counter was a result of sportsmen desires for more opportunity. A committee was formed in 2007 to design a way to accomplish this. They developed an approach that makes annual progress toward this goal through increasing permits and hunts over time.
2. The 2009 recommendations are based upon the phase-in permit calculation formula, which was developed by the committee and includes 3 spring hunting seasons. These are an early season hunt, a middle hunt and a late season hunt. Base permit levels are computed utilizing a turkey population formula. One-third of the base permits go into the early season hunt (A) for each limited entry area. Two-thirds of the base permits go into the middle season hunt (B). The late or third season hunt (C) is where most of the phase-in, add on permits are located. These late season hunts are generally combined-unit hunts and permit levels are determined using the early and middle season permits and multiplying it by the following:
 - a. 2008 late season permits = A + B hunt permit total X 1
 - b. 2009 late season permits = A + B hunt permit total X 2
3. The tables included with this information packet provide:
 - a. The 2008 turkey harvest with hunter satisfaction metrics. Hunter satisfaction indices are to be used as triggers to adapt management if they fall below the following standards:
 - i. 3-year average hunter success drops below 20 %,
 - ii. 3-year average hunter satisfaction drops below 2 on a 1 to 5 scale with 5 being completely satisfied,
 - iii. 3-year average hunter crowding index above 4 on a 1 to 5 scale with 5 being highly crowded. (This metric was not sufficiently

measured in the 2008 survey so the old “interference index” is provided. This is a judgment made by the hunter as to whether his hunt was interfered with by other hunters. Thus, a measure of 11%, indicates that 11% of the hunters thought that their hunt was interfered with due to crowding or other hunter activity.)

- b. Permit numbers that are being recommended both statewide and by unit for the 2009 hunts. These recommendations are developed using the permit calculation format that was approved earlier for 2009 (shown above under item 2).
4. We are recommending a boundary change to the Morgan, South Rich hunt area to align the boundary with the Wildlife Management Unit #4 boundary. A copy of the new proposed boundary is also included in the packet under the Boundary Information attachment.
5. We are proposing to combine units in the Southeastern Region based upon a north of I-70 and south of I-70 subunit scenario for the late season hunt. This will provide more opportunity and also provide a hunt system more consistent with other regions. The boundaries are described in the attachments as are the permit numbers and dates in the tables.
6. Landowner permits will not be included during the regular drawing this year but will be approved and issued by the appropriate DWR regional office. Landowners can apply within the region that their land is located.
7. We recommend keeping the same area closures that were in force during the 2008 hunting season that were developed in response to habitat losses. We are recommending that a late season hunt not be included in the Green River hunt area of the Southeastern Region during the 2009 season. Hunts A and B would still occur but the late season would not be held. This is in response to a substantial loss in turkey habitat and a similar decline in the population of turkeys in the area.
8. No other changes are being proposed during the 2009 recommendation cycle.